Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for managing an infrastructure comprising:

a computer;

a user interface communicably coupled to the computer;

a database communicably coupled to the computer, the database containing two or more records, each record having a unique identifier and one or more data fields representing attributes of an asset or asset related item within the infrastructure, and all the records are linked ~~to one another~~ in a dual closed-loop structure to represent the assets and asset related items (1) in a hierarchical manner <u>forming a first closed-loop</u> in accordance with one or more business interconnection rules of the infrastructure that define how the assets and asset related items are interconnected, (2) in a life cycle <u>forming a second closed-loop</u> of the assets and asset related items and (3) how one or more persons use the assets and asset related items or how one or more persons use the information stored in the one or more data fields associated with the assets and asset related items<u>, such that a record for each asset or asset related item is linked to one or more records in the first closed-loop and one or more records in the second closed-loop</u>; and

a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium that is executed by the computer to manage the infrastructure using the database.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more data fields further represent attributes of a sub-element for one or more assets.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the attributes include an asset name, manufacturer name, make, model number, serial number, description, purchase date, expiration date, purchase cost or operating characteristics.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the asset related items include places, connections, contracts, documentation or financials.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein:

the places include physical sites or locations;

the connections include electrical connections, physical connections, logical connections, communication links, interfaces, junctions, circuits or patch panels;

the contracts include leases, title documents, maintenance contracts, license agreements, clients contracts, resource allocation or service-level agreements;

the documentation includes support documents, maintenance schedules, procedural documentation, operational documentation or policy documentation; and

the financials include purchase records, repair records, warranties, operational costs, charge-backs or down-time costs.

Claims 6-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the life cycle of the asset and asset related items comprises procurement, implementation, usage, modification, change, decommission, disposal or salvage information about the asset or asset related item.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for managing an infrastructure comprising the steps of:

providing a database containing two or more records, each record having a unique identifier and one or more data fields representing attributes of an asset or asset related item within the infrastructure, and all the records are linked ~~to one another~~ in a dual closed-loop structure to represent the assets and asset related items (1) in a hierarchical manner <u>forming a first closed-loop</u> in accordance with one or more business interconnection rules of the infrastructure that define how the assets and asset related items are interconnected, (2) in a life cycle <u>forming a second closed-loop</u> of the assets and asset related items and (3) how one or more persons use the assets and asset related items or how one or more persons use the information stored in the one or more data fields associated with the assets and asset related items<u>, such that a record for each asset or asset related item is linked to one or more records in the first closed-loop and one or more records in the second closed-loop</u>;

processing one or more user requests to display or report information stored in the database; and

updating the database as assets or asset related items are procured, implemented, changed or disposed.

Claim 13 (original): The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of creating the database.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the step of creating the database comprises the steps of:

identifying one or more boundaries for the infrastructure;

identifying the assets within the boundaries;

identifying the items related to the assets;

identifying one or more persons that use the assets and asset related items;

determining the attributes associated with each asset and asset related item;

determining the business interconnection rules of the infrastructure that define how the assets and related items are interconnected; and

creating each record and storing the record in the database in the dual closed-loop structure.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

determining one or more sub-elements for the assets and one or more attributes associated with the sub-elements; and

determining one or more business interconnection rules for how the sub-elements and assets are linked together.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (original): The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of identifying one or more people who use information about the asset.

Claim 18 (original): The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of designing data display and report formats.

Claim 19 (original): The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

identifying a managing agency; and

determining one or more goals for the managing agency.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for managing an infrastructure, the computer program comprising:

a code segment for providing a database containing two or more records, each record having a unique identifier and one or more data fields representing attributes of an asset or asset related item within the infrastructure, and all the records are linked to one another in a dual closed-loop structure to represent the assets and asset related items (1) in a hierarchical manner forming a first closed-loop in accordance with one or more business interconnection rules of the

infrastructure that define how the assets and asset related items are interconnected, (2) in a life cycle <u>forming a second closed-loop</u> of the assets and asset related items and (3) how one or more persons use the assets and asset related items or how one or more persons use the information stored in the one or more data fields associated with the assets and asset related items<u>, such that a record for each asset or asset related item is linked to one or more records in the first closed-loop and one or more records in the second closed-loop</u>;

      a code segment for processing one or more user requests to display or report information stored in the database; and

      a code segment for updating the database as assets or asset related items are procured, implemented, changed or disposed.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of determining who or what is affected by a change in one or more of the assets or asset related items using the one or more business interconnection rules and the hierarchy.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): An apparatus for managing an infrastructure comprising:

      a computer;

      a user interface communicably coupled to the computer;

      a database communicably coupled to the computer;

      the database containing a record for each asset or asset related item within the infrastructure that is to be managed, wherein all the records are linked to one another in a dual closed-loop structure to represent the assets and asset related items (1) in a hierarchical manner in accordance with one or more business interconnection rules of the infrastructure that define how the assets and asset related items are interconnected, (2) in a life cycle of the assets and asset related items and (3) how one or more persons use the assets and asset related items or how one or more persons use the information stored in the one or more data fields associated with the assets and asset related items;

each record having a unique identifier and one or more data fields representing one or more attributes, interconnection relationship information, related information and life cycle information of the assets or asset related items; and

a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium that is executed by the computer to (1) validate the database, (2) search, find, import, export, update and print records within the database, (3) add or change workflow within the infrastructure, (4) maintain the life cycle of the assets and asset related items, and (5) provide reports regarding the assets and asset related items.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 23, wherein:

the attributes include an asset name, manufacturer name, make, model number, serial number, description, purchase date, expiration date, purchase cost or operating characteristics; and

the asset related items include places, connections, contracts, documentation or financials.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein:

the places include physical sites or locations;

the connections include electrical connections, physical connections, logical connections, communication links, interfaces, junctions, circuits or patch panels;

the contracts include leases, title documents, maintenance contracts, license agreements, clients contracts, resource allocation or service-level agreements;

the documentation includes support documents, maintenance schedules, procedural documentation, operational documentation or policy documentation; and

the financials include purchase records, repair records, warranties, operational costs, charge-backs or down-time costs.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 23, wherein the life cycle of the asset and asset related items comprises procurement, implementation, usage, modification, change, decommission, disposal or salvage information about the asset or asset related item.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 23, wherein maintaining the life cycle of the assets and asset related items includes assigning permissions to the records, recording new assets or asset related items when they are procured, recording changes when assets or asset related items are implemented, modified and disposed.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The apparatus as recited in claim 23, wherein the reports regarding the assets and asset related items include reports on the assets or asset related items, reports on who uses the assets or asset related items, and reports on who changed the assets or asset related items and what was changed.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): A method for creating an asset management database for an infrastructure comprising the steps of:

identifying one or more boundaries for the infrastructure;

identifying a managing agency;

determining one or more goals for the managing agency;

identifying one or more assets within the boundaries;

identifying one or more items related to the one or more assets;

identifying one or more attributes associated with the each asset and asset related items;

identifying one or more sub-elements connecting the one or more assets;

identifying one or more business interconnection rules that define how the assets and asset related items are interconnected and how one or more persons use the assets and asset related items;

identifying the persons that use the one or more assets and asset related items;

identifying one or more persons that use information associated with the one or more assets and asset related items; and

creating the database containing two or more records, each record having a unique identifier and one or more data fields representing the identified information, sub-elements and persons for the identified asset within the infrastructure, and all the records are linked to one another in a dual closed-loop structure to represent the assets and asset related items (1) in a hierarchical manner in accordance with the business interconnection rules of the infrastructure, (2) in a life cycle of the assets and asset related items and (3) how one or more persons use the assets and asset related items or how one or more persons use the information stored in the one or more data fields associated with the assets and asset related items.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the identified attributes for the assets and asset related items includes an asset name, manufacturer name, make, model number, serial number, description, purchase date, expiration date, purchase cost, operating characteristics, places, connections, contracts, documentation or financials.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The method as recited in claim 30, wherein:

the places include physical sites or locations;

the connections include electrical connections, physical connections, logical connections, communication links, interfaces, junctions, circuits or patch panels;

the contracts include leases, title documents, maintenance contracts, license agreements, clients contracts, resource allocation or service-level agreements;

the documentation includes support documents, maintenance schedules, procedural documentation, operational documentation or policy documentation; and

the financials include purchase records, repair records, warranties, operational costs, charge-backs or down-time costs.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A method of using an asset management system comprising the steps of:

providing a database containing two or more records, each record having a unique identifier and one or more data fields representing attributes of an asset or asset related item

within the infrastructure, and all the records are linked ~~to one another~~ in a dual closed-loop structure to represent the assets and asset related items (1) in a hierarchical manner <u>forming a first closed-loop</u> in accordance with one or more business interconnection rules of the infrastructure that define how the assets and asset related items are interconnected, (2) in a life cycle <u>forming a second closed-loop</u> of the assets and asset related items and (3) how one or more persons use the assets and asset related items or how one or more persons use the information stored in the one or more data fields associated with the assets and asset related items<u>, such that a record for each asset or asset related item is linked to one or more records in the first closed-loop and one or more records in the second closed-loop</u>; and

determining who or what is affected by a change in one or more of the assets or asset related items using the one or more business interconnection rules and the hierarchy.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

adding one or more records to the database for one or more new assets, new persons, new attributes, new business interconnection rules and new boundaries;

providing one or more data screens and reports to users of the system;

receiving data from automated systems and storing the received information in the database; and

customizing the system for one or more applications.